

# Graduation Rate

## What is the graduation rate?

The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate represents the number students who meet regular Idaho high school graduation requirements in four years. This measure does not include students who earn a GED, but does account for students who may transfer in and out of school in the four-year period.

## Why is the graduation rate important?

Obtaining a high school diploma dramatically increases a student's future educational and workplace opportunities. Measuring the four-year graduation rate allows the state to track how schools are meeting the goal of ensuring all Idaho students are college and career ready.

The four-year graduation rate is used in two distinct ways:

- As one indicator of overall school performance in a single year;
- As a way to identify schools with a graduation rate less than 67% averaged over three years.

## How will Idaho calculate the graduation rate for school accountability?

Students who are entering grade 9 for the first time from a cohort that is subsequently "adjusted" by adding any students who transfer into the school during the next four years and subtracting any students who transfer out, immigrate to another country, or pass away during that same period.

The four-year cohort graduation rate lags the other indicators by one year. The graduation rate measure in school identification is calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of cohort members who earned a regular high school diploma through summer 2017}}{\text{Number of students in grade 9 for the first time in fall 2013} + \text{Students who transferred in} - \text{Students who transferred out, emigrated, or died during the school years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017}}$$

## DATA SOURCES

The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate represents the class of 2017 calculated rates. Rates are based on exit codes submitted in June 2017 ISEE reports and appealed by schools in November 2017. The three-year average rate used to identify schools with graduation rates less than 67% combines rates from 2015, 2016 and 2017.

**Questions?** Contact the Assessment & Accountability team at [assessments@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:assessments@sde.idaho.gov)

